

7.0 COORDINATION FOR IMPLEMENTATION

7.1 Stakeholder Involvement for Implementation

The IRCWM Plan was developed through a comprehensive stakeholder effort involving local and regional public agencies, environmental organizations, academia, members of the public, and state and federal agencies. As discussed in *Section 1.5.1*, a formal organizational structure for stakeholder involvement has been in place for over a decade with active participation on regional watershed programs. This level of involvement and strong collaborative stakeholder relationships have made this Plan possible and will continue with Plan implementation and updates.

Stakeholders will be directly involved on multiple levels:

- The Newport Bay Watershed Management Committee, established through an MOU and comprised of IRCWM Group members, will meet quarterly (at a minimum) to evaluate Plan and project performance and make recommendations for changes where needed to ensure that the appropriate strategies are in use and the Plan's objectives are being met.
- The Newport Bay Watershed Stakeholders Group, which meets monthly, will receive regular updates on the Plan and implementation. This group will also consider the Newport Bay Watershed Management Committee periodic recommendations on modifications to the Plan and provide input.
- The Newport Bay Watershed Executive Committee will receive the Newport Bay Watershed Management Committee progress report and recommendations, consider additional stakeholder recommendations, and make policy and budget decisions for the Plan where necessary.

Although no obstacles to implementation have been identified at this point, policies, regulations, and watershed conditions will change and conflicts may arise in the future. The provision for stakeholder involvement at all levels during implementation is intended to address potential conflicts early on so that implementation is not hindered, and the highest level of benefit is received. Through this process, all stakeholders are afforded the opportunity to participate in Plan implementation and provide input on water resource and watershed management decisions.

7.2 Disadvantaged Communities Involvement for Implementation

Disadvantaged communities will be directly involved in Plan implementation and updates through participation in the Newport Bay Watershed Stakeholders Group and as supporters on individual projects. As discussed in *Sections 2.4.2* and *2.10.2*, residents of disadvantaged communities utilize the regional parks, open space, and waters within the region as recreational hubs. Waters within the region include area beaches, local creeks and streams, and wetland

environments. Non-profit organizations that serve the disadvantaged communities, such as Latino Health Access, are essential to the process to ensure that the needs of those communities are addressed through local and regional projects. The IRCWM Group will continue to provide outreach to and encourage the participation of organizations that represent the interests of disadvantaged communities and will provide value to this integrated regional planning effort.

7.3 State and Federal Agency Involvement for Implementation

Effective coordination with state and federal agencies is equally important to the success of the IRCWM Plan as coordination with local land use and water resource agencies, stakeholders, and disadvantaged communities. During Plan preparation, participants of the IRCWM Group met with staff from the SWRCB, DWR, and the Santa Ana RWQCB. This coordination will continue and expand as the Plan is implemented and future updates are made.

The Santa Ana RWQCB and CDFG participate in the Newport Bay Watershed Executive Committee. Members of the IRCWM Group also coordinate with California State Parks, the agency responsible for Crystal Cove State Park and Corona del Mar State Beach.

A number of the regional and local plans and proposed projects have been prepared by or in coordination with agencies such as the ACOE, CDFG, California Coastal Commission, and others. These and other state and federal agencies will be involved in implementation as necessary for regulatory requirements, cooperation for collaborative projects, and communication between project proponents. The IRCWM Group will continue to involve state and federal agencies in planning meetings, implementation strategies, and actions to carry out projects.